Karnataka under Government consideration to develop a rock garden on the pattern of Rock Garden of Chandigarh and Shilparmam of Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to help the State Government in their project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI J AGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Development and promotion of tourist places/centres is primarily undertaken by the State Govemments/UT Administrations themselves. However, the Central Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with them.

Promotion of Tourism in Karnataka

588. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the projects undertaken by Government for promotion of tourism in Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) the place selected for promotion of tourism in the State; and

(c) the investment made for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, Department of Tourism provides Central financial assistance to various State Govemments/UTs on the basis of project prioritised annually in consultation with them.

Details of projects sanctioned during the last three years are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the year	No. of projects sanctioned
I.	1998-99	13
2.	1999-2000	42
3.	2000-2001	19

(b) The State Government of Karnataka has identified 248 places of tourist interest for development and promotion of tourism in a phased manner with Central financial assistance from the Central Department of Tourism.

(c) Details of grants-in-aid sanctioned during the last three years are as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)

SI. No.	Name of the year,.	Amount sanctioned
1.	1998-99	407.48
2.	1999-2000	901.00
3.	2000-2001	489.30

Steep fall in international tourists

589. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep downfall in international tourists into the country which affected tourism industry;

(b) if so, the estimated loss of foreign exchange; and

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to assure foreign tourists about the security and other related aspects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) There has been a decline in foreign tourist arrivals to the extent of 2.2per cent during January and October, 2001 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism in January to October, 2001 is Rs. 11750 crores as compared to Rs. 11369 crores earned during the same period of the previous year. However, the growth rate in foreign exchange earnings is 3.3per cent in January to October, 2001 as compared to the growth rate of 8.6 per cent achieved during January to October, 2000.

(c) Efforts have been made to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination. Government's message at the World Tourism Mart, 2001 held in London was that the situation in India